

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

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INFORMATION SHEETS

HAMILTON REGIONAL
CANCER CENTRE

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LAKEVIEW LODGE

Lakeview Lodge provides pleasant and comfortable accommodation for up to twenty out-of-town patients (or guests) who are attending the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre for treatment or investigation and who reside 25 miles or more from the Centre. There is no charge for accommodation to these patients. All expenses are met by the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation. If space permits, patients may have an escort stay with them in the Lodge. There is a small charge for the escorts.

Facilities include double rooms with bath, lounges, dining room and a beauty/barber shop. The Lodge is in operation from Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. until Friday at 4:00 p.m. The Lodge is closed on weekends and guests usually leave the Lodge on Friday morning or early afternoon and return on Monday morning.

There is no nursing care provided at the Lodge.

**For more information call:
(416) 575-1797**

RESEARCH

The Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre is actively engaged in cancer research. Patients are generally unaware of these activities, but research scientists and other staff of the laboratories located at the Centre are important to the role of research. A Health System Link Research Grant was awarded by the Ontario Ministry of Health to establish a research program for Supportive Cancer Care. This program will interact strongly with the cancer care network for the region in investigating ways to improve supportive cancer care delivery.

CLINICAL TRIALS

The Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre is also involved in clinical trials. These studies are designed to improve our treatment of cancer patients by comparing one treatment to another. As a patient you may be asked to participate in one or more of the studies. If so, your physician will discuss this with you in detail prior to your treatment. Whether or not you ever participate in the clinical trials will in no way affect the quality of care you receive at the Centre.

EDUCATION

All departments in the Centre are closely affiliated with McMaster University. Senior nursing staff, all physicians and Ph.D. physicists are jointly appointed at the University. The Centre actively participates in offering undergraduate and postgraduate experience to medical and nursing students from McMaster University and Mohawk College. A Radiation Therapy School was started in 1990. This two year program offers theoretical and clinical instruction at the Centre. There are a variety of continuing education/staff development opportunities made available to the staff at the Centre and weekly educational sessions are presented so that staff can keep current with the latest treatments, research and education related to cancer.

DOCTORS

The doctors who work at the Centre are specialists in radiation therapy and chemotherapy. They are called Radiation Oncologists and Medical Oncologists. Additional specialists in medicine or surgery may assist with your care.

NURSES

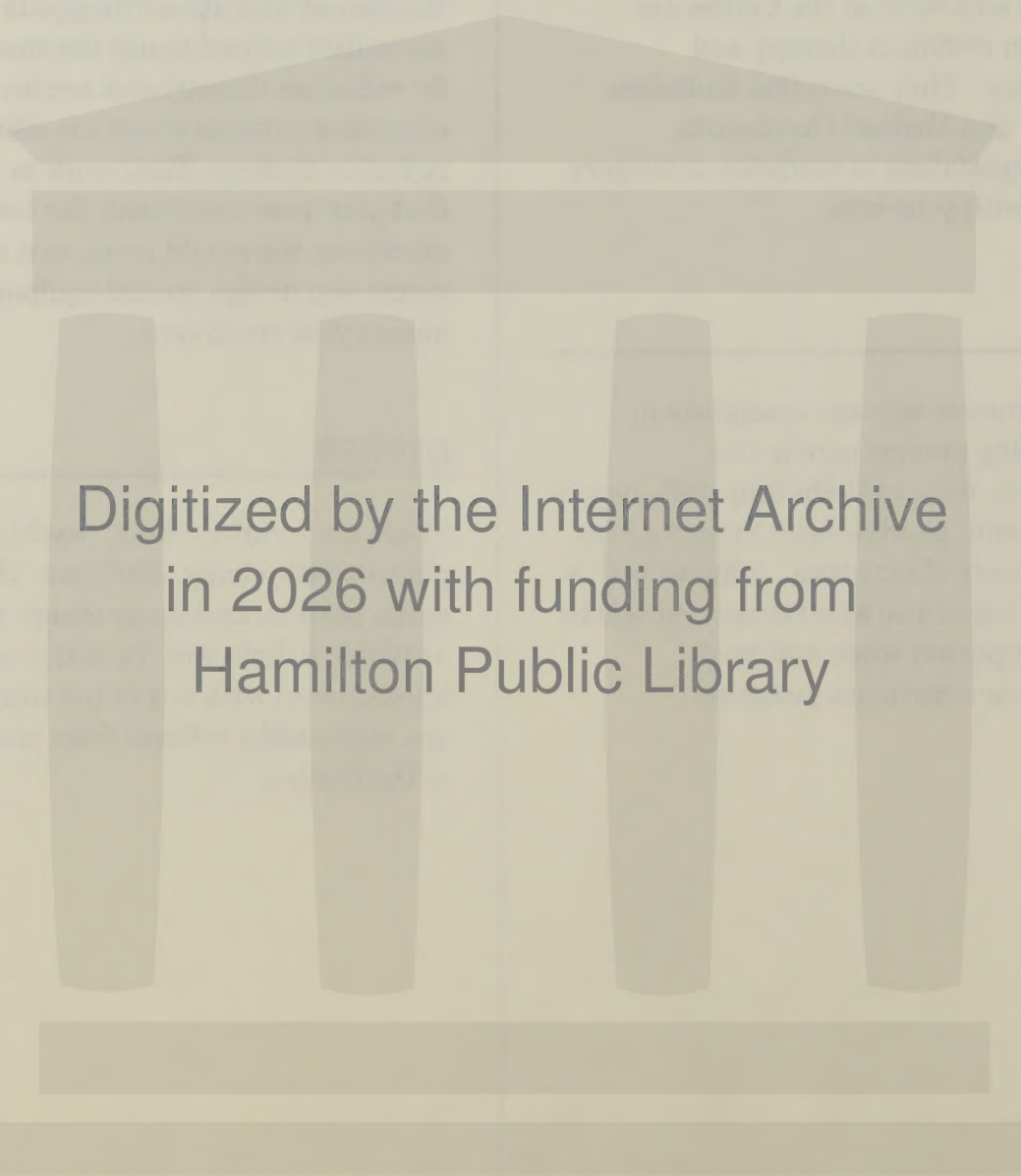
Registered nurses who are specialists in cancer nursing provide care in the chemotherapy unit, radiotherapy unit, special procedures unit, psycho-social program area, and the primary clinic areas. A nurse will be available to assist you at all times and will be your contact person when you need information or experience problems.

RADIATION THERAPISTS

Registered Radiation Therapists are specialists trained to use the equipment used for radiation therapy and are involved in educating patients about the effect of radiation therapy. They work in the areas that plan your treatment, the treatment machines, the mould room, cast and contour rooms and design special equipment for use during your treatment.

OTHERS

There are social workers, psychiatrists, pharmacists, clergy, dietitians, clerks, nurses aides, porters, and many others who are available to help you. To make an appointment with any of the support staff, you may need a referral from your physician at the Centre.



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RADIATION THERAPY

Many patients are treated with some form of radiation such as cobalt, high energy x-rays, electrons, or cesium. The treatment scheduled may be for only one day or it may be given each day for many weeks depending on the individual's situation. Radiation treatments are given only at the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre. The department is located on Level 0.

CHEMOTHERAPY

The chemotherapy treatment area is located on the Level 2. This form of treatment can be given in the form of pills, as injections or intravenously. Chemotherapy is also given at several of the community-based clinics in local hospitals.

SUPPORTIVE CANCER CARE PROGRAM

The diagnosis of cancer often causes increased stress for patients and their families. The program staff includes a social worker, psychiatrist, nurse, and nutritionist. Patients and their families can be referred to the program by their nurse or doctor. Special services include individual assessment and counselling, instruction in relaxation and visual imagery, support groups and a music for wellness program.

PHARMACY

The pharmacy is located on Level 2. Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. patients can fill some prescriptions issued by their physician at the Centre.

OUT-PATIENT LABORATORY

Patients requiring blood tests at the time of their clinic appointment should use the Laboratory that is located on Level 1 behind the Cancer Society information desk. The Lab hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

X-RAY

Facilities are available at the Centre and at the Henderson Hospital for some x-rays such as of the chest and abdomen. Patients are directed to the area where they are to have the x-rays completed.

New patients will be interviewed privately by an interview clerk. At this time you will be asked information about your family doctor, address, telephone number, postal code, who should be contacted in case of emergency, where you work and so on. Also, you will be asked to present your Ontario Hospital Health Card and Drug Benefit Card if you have one.

You will then go to the clinic area where you will meet the nurses and doctors who will be taking care of you. They will talk with you, examine you, evaluate your problem and arrange further tests if they are required. Sometimes several doctors and nurses will discuss your situation together with you to help decide the best treatment plan for you. Usually patients do not have any treatments on their first visit.

Usually you will be assigned to one nurse and one doctor in the Centre who will be responsible for your continuing care.

PLANNING YOUR FIRST VISIT:

- Make a list of questions that you may have and bring the list with you. This list should contain concerns you may have about how cancer, or its treatment may affect your life (list attached to covering letter).
- Bring a close friend or relative with you who can speak English. There is a lot of information given and another person will help you remember details.
- If you need transportation, the Canadian Cancer Society in your area is listed in your telephone book. They can arrange a volunteer driver to give you a ride to the Centre, and provide information about many other services they offer.
- Your first visit may take longer as you may need tests and x-rays that will help the doctors assess your condition and plan your treatment. Allow extra time for the visit.
- Bring any medications you are taking with you, and a list of the dates of any surgery or hospitalization, and any known allergies. If you wear glasses bring them with you.

Patients are given appointments at the request of their family physicians or specialists. Before your arrival, information from your medical records should have been sent to the Centre by your doctor(s).

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Ontario Cancer Treatment & Research Foundation

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The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation (OCTRF) was incorporated in 1943 by the Cancer Act of the Legislature of the Province of Ontario. The mandate is to provide diagnosis and treatment for patients with cancer in the Province of Ontario, as well as to conduct a program of research in cancer. The Foundation is funded primarily through the Ontario Ministry of Health, but receives some private donations and bequests.

The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation provides patient care at Regional

Cancer Centres. These centres are associated with general hospitals in Hamilton (Henderson General), London (Victoria), Ottawa (Ottawa Civic and Ottawa General), Sudbury (Laurentian Hospital), Thunder Bay (Port Arthur General), Windsor (Metropolitan), Toronto-Bayview (Sunnybrook Medical Centre), and Toronto (Princess Margaret Hospital).

These Regional Cancer Centres and the community clinics care for approximately 13,000 new patients with cancer and 400,000 patient visits per year.

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer. The Canadian Cancer Society achieves its mission through programs of research, education, patient services, fundraising and influence on public policy.

In the Centre there are Cancer Society volunteers in yellow smocks serving refreshments in the waiting rooms and assisting patients and staff in many ways. A Cancer Society information area is located in the main lobby of the Centre where information about volunteer driver transportation services, peer support services and other supplementary services can be found.

Pamphlets displayed in the waiting areas contain information about the many services provided by the Cancer Society.*

In Hamilton: 575-9220

Other Locations:

Listed in local Telephone Directory under Canadian Cancer Society

* Please note that patients referred to the Centre are not automatically identified to the Cancer Society. Please call the Cancer Society if you are interested in any of the services which they provide.

CANCER INFORMATION SERVICE

The Cancer Information Service will provide information on all aspects of cancer. The service does not diagnose cancer or advise treatment for individuals. You can call and ask the staff of professionals and specially trained volunteers any questions about cancer. No question is too trivial. All calls are kept confidential.

In Hamilton: 387-1153

Other Locations: 1-800-263-6718

In March 1990, construction began on the new Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre (HRCC). The HRCC serves the population of Central West Ontario (1.7 million) and offers one of the largest cancer treatment services in Ontario. In 1990 over 4,000 new cancer patients were referred to the Centre.

Within the referral area to the HRCC, patient services are provided at community-based clinics at nine affiliated area hospitals. Patients are seen and treated in their own communities by doctors who are affiliated with the HRCC.

THE COMMUNITY CLINICS ARE BASED IN:

Hamilton:

Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals/McMaster Div.
St. Joseph's Hospital

Brantford:

St. Joseph's Hospital

Burlington:

Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital

Cambridge:

Cambridge Memorial Hospital

Guelph:

Guelph General Hospital

Niagara Falls:

Greater Niagara General Hospital

St. Catharines:

Hotel Dieu Hospital

Welland:

Welland County General Hospital

CENTRE HOURS

The Centre operates from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The Centre is closed on the following days:

New Year's Day
Heritage Day (2nd Monday in February)
Good Friday
Easter Monday
Victoria Day
Dominion Day (1st Monday in July)
Civic Holiday (1st Monday in August)
Labour Day (1st Monday in September)
Thanksgiving (2nd Monday in October)
Christmas Day
Boxing Day

EMERGENCY SERVICE

If you develop an urgent medical problem during the usual hours (9-5) that is related to your cancer or its treatment, please contact your primary nurse or your physician from the Centre at (416) 387-9495. After hours there is always a Centre physician on call at (416) 387-9495. Give the answering service your name, your physician's name and your telephone number.

APPOINTMENT CHANGE

- CALL (416) 387-9495

Change in Followup Appointment
With The Doctor

- Tell switchboard which clinic you attend (for example, Clinic A, B, C, or D)

Change in Chemotherapy Appointment

- ask for ext. 4439

Change in Radiotherapy Appointment

- ask for ext. 4600

*** If you need to change your appointment due to illness or problems associated with the your treatment, please contact your primary nurse.**

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre.

AMBULANCE

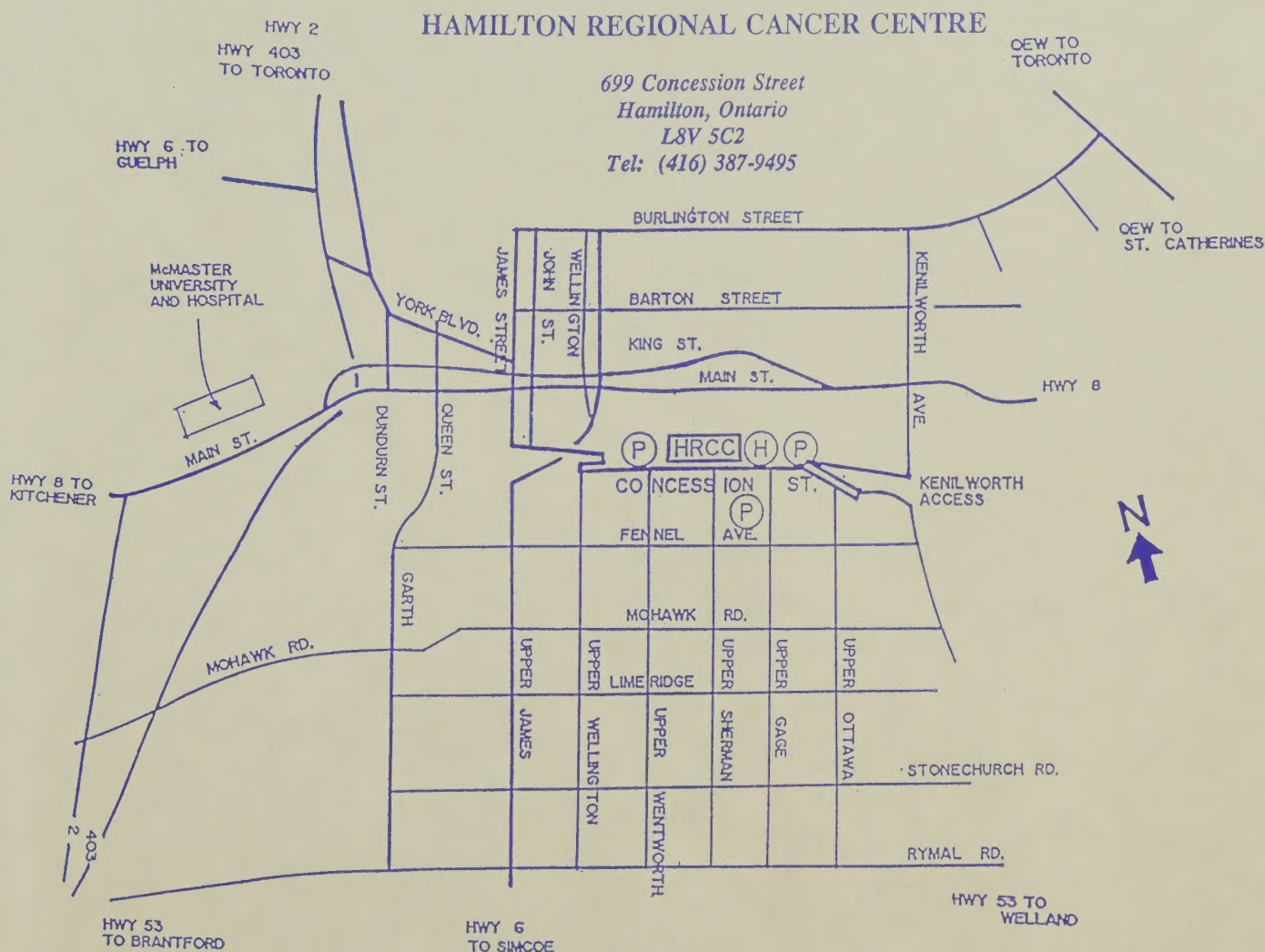
If your condition requires an ambulance please call the primary nurse before coming to the Centre.

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PARKING

There is visitor parking in pay lots located beside the Centre and across the road from the Centre. The fee is \$6.50 per day, but is subject to change. Parking services are managed by the Hamilton Civic Hospitals.



KEY

- (P) PARKING
- (H) HENDERSON HOSPITAL

HRCC HAMILTON REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE

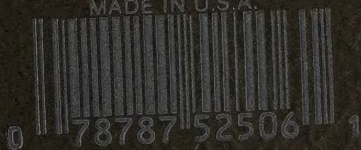


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